(c) whether Government are monitoring such health missions of States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some States have expressed a desire increased Government of India funding to strengthen their primary health infrastructure under the proposed National Rural Health Mission.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The proposal to launch National Rural Health Mission is under the consideration of the Government.

**Vaccine potent in sugarbox/crystals**

1693. SHRIGIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a break through has reportedly been found in keeping vaccine potent in sugarbox/crystals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) M/s Panacea Biotech Limited have entered into an agreement with M/s Cambridge Biostability Ltd., U.K., for developing a stable vaccine product based on a new technology which mimics a natural phenomenon, wherein some organisms are able to survive in dried-up form for hundred of years (anhydrohiosis). In this technology water within the cell is replaced with a sugar solution the thickens when water is excluded to a point of solidifying as a glass and the organisms dries out. Cells are kept in a state of suspended animation until re-hydration occurs and (the organism-plant, animal or bacteria) returns to life. The process is being applied for first time to vaccines. The vaccine is first spray-dried using the sugar syrup to form microscopic glass spheres. The dry vaccine is then suspended in an approved inert liquid, which can be injected into muscle where bodily fluids reactivates the vaccine. The trial of the vaccine prepared by this process is yet to begin.

***Statement***

*Prevalence of Blindness and Estimated Number of Blind Persons in India*

| State/UT *Code* | India/State/ *Union Territory* | Census *Population* (2001) | Annual *Growth* Rate* | Estimated *Population* 2004 | Prevalence *of Blindness* | Estimated *Blind Persons* (in lakh) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 356265 | 2.39 | 381809 | 0.67 | 0.03 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 75727541 | 1.30 | 78680915 | 1.50 | 11.80 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1091117 | 2.33 | 1167386 | 1.23 | 0.14 |
| 4. | Assam | 26638407 | 1.73 | 28020940 | 1.34 | 3.75 |
| 5. | Bihar | 82878796 | 2.50 | 89094706 | 0.78 | 6.95 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 900914 | 3.39 | 992537 | 1.89 | 0.19 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 20795956 | 1.66 | 21831595 | 1.61 | 3.51 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 220451 | 4.65 | 251204 | 1.07 | 0.03 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 158059 | 4.42 | 179018 | 1.07 | 0.02 |
| 10. | Delhi | 13782976 | 3.81 | 15358370 | 0.63 | 0.97 |
| 11. | Goa | 1343998 | 1.39 | 1400043 | 2.03 | 0.28 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 50596992 | 2.03 | 53678349 | 1.07 | 5.74 |
| 13. | Haryana | 21082989 | 2.47 | 22645238 | 1.13 | 2.56 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 6077248 | 1.62 | 6372602 | 0.70 | 0.45 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 10069917 | 2.55 | 10840266 | 1.61 | 1.75 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 26909428 | 2.09 | 28596649 | 0.78 | 2.23 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. | Karnataka | 52733958 | 1.59 | 55249368 | 1.78 | 9.83 |
| 18. | Kerala | 31838619 | 0.90 | 32698262 | 0.56 | 1.83 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 60595 | 1.59 | 63485 | 0.89 | 0.01 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 60385118 | 2.18 | 64334305 | 1.16 | 7.46 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 96752247 | 2.04 | 102673485 | 0.95 | 9.75 |
| 22. | Manipur | 2388634 | 2.63 | 2577097 | 0.65 | 0.17 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 2306069 | 2.62 | 2487326 | 0.22 | 0.05 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 891058 | 2.56 | 959491 | 0.65 | 0.06 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 1988636 | 4.97 | 2285142 | 0.38 | 0.09 |
| 26. | Orissa | 36706920 | 1.48 | 38336707 | 1.40 | 5.37 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 973829 | 1.87 | 1028461 | 0.78 | 0.08 |
| 28. | Punjab | 24289296 | 1.80 | 25600918 | 1.01 | 2.59 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 56473122 | 2.49 | 60691664 | 1.55 | 9.41 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 540493 | 2.85 | 586705 | 0.45 | 0.03 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 62110839 | 1.06 | 64085964 | 0.78 | 5.00 |
| 32. | Tripura | 3191168 | 1.46 | 3330941 | 1.18 | 0.39 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 166052859 | 2.30 | 177510506 | 0.94 | 16.69 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 8479562 | 1.76 | 8927283 | 0.56 | 0.50 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 80221171 | 1.64 | 84168053 | 1.19 | 10.02 |
| | INDIA | 1027015247 | 1.93 | 1087086789 | 1.10 | 119.72 |
| *Census of India 2001 | | | | | | |
| | Male | 531277078 | 1.93 | 562038021 | 0.91 | 51.15 |
| | Famale | 495738169 | 1.93 | 524441409 | 1.29 | 67.65 |